PTO/SB/21 (09-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 10/609.226 TRANSMITTAL Filing Date 01/30/2003 First Named Inventor **FORM** Robert B. Lawson Art Unit **Examiner Name** Phi D A (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to TC Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC 1 Petition Amendment/Reply (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final **Provisional Application** Power of Attorney, Revocation Status Letter Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify Terminal Disclaimer **Extension of Time Request** below): **Express Abandonment Request** Request for Refund CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Landscape Table on CD Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name Lawson Aquatics, Inc. Signature Printed name Robert B. Lawson Date Reg. No. **CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelipe addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below: Signature

Date Typed or printed name Robert B. Lawson

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Response to a non-final Office Action

Application Ser. No. 10/609,226

This communication is a response to a non-final Office Action having a mailing date of 01/11/2005 and setting forth a shortened statutory period for response of three months which would expire on 04/11/2005.

The examiner has rejected claims 9 and 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112. However, the examiner did not indicate the nature of the indefiniteness of claim 9. A telephone conversation with the examiner Phi Dieu Tran A on 03/22/2005 resulted in a clarification of the rejection of claim 9. Consequently all claims 9 and 11 - 12 will be presented in a corrected version on a separate pages

The applicant takes issue with the rejection of claim 13 wherein the examiner states that the applicant did not observe the correct sequence of actions. It is believed that claim 9 does set forth the correct sequence of steps that are performed to assemble the pool grating. By providing the step of drilling a pilot hole prior to the step of actual drilling, applicant is merely limiting the scope of claim 9 and it is believed that this does not render claim 9 indefinite. The step of drilling a pilot hole does not necessarily have to be performed in the method of claim 9. This drilling of the pilot hole merely provides accuracy in the performance of the method of claim 9

The indication that claim 9 and, of course, the claims depending therefrom would be

allowable is greatly appreciated.

Date:

3/23/05